(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Committee probing into the matter had submitted any report and if so, the details thereof and if not, by when it is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Government has appointed a one man Committee comprising of Shri Yogesh Chandra, IAS (Retd.) to enquire into the cases of allotment of land made by Land and Development Office (L&DO) to various social, cultural, religious, educational institutions since 1998-99. The terms of reference of the Committee are:—

(i) to review all the cases of land allotted by L&DO to social, cultural, religious, educational institutions, since 1998-99 and till date, with reference to the prevailing procedure for allotment of land;

(ii) recommend action in cases where deviations from the prescribed procedure and/or fulfilment of conditions of allotment are observed;

(iii) suggest guidelines for allotment of land in future by the Land and Development Office in a fair, objective and transparent manner.

The Committee has not submitted its report so far. It is expected to do so soon.

Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana

*173. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced a new scheme called Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana through foreign trade policy with a primary aim to boost exports of fruits, vegetables and flowers;

(b) whether Government are giving any duty exemption for exporting these products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount that has been spent on producing horticulture products during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) to promote export of fruits, vegetables, flowers, minor forest produce and their value added products a new Scheme namely Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana has been announced in the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09. Exporters of such products shall be entitled for duty credit scrip equivalent to 5% of the FOB value of exports for each licensing year commencing from 1st April 2004. The duty credit and the items imported against it shall be freely transferable. The duty credit under the Scheme may be used for import of inputs or goods including Capital Goods as may be specified, provided the same is freely importable under ITC(HS).

In addition, under the Advance Licence scheme duty free import of agricultural inputs required for export production are allowed with an obligation to export agricultural products. Similarly duty benefits are available under the Duty Remission Schemes namely, Duty Free Replenishment Certificate and the Duty entitlement Passbook Scheme for export of agricultural products. The benefits available under the Advance Licence/Duty Remission schemes is based on the input-output norms and the incidence of Customs duty on the import content of the export product and is different for different export products. Import of capital goods is also allowed at a concessional 5% Customs duty under the EPCG scheme subject to an export obligation equivalent to 8 times the duty saved on such imported capital goods over a period of 8 years.

(d) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State efforts through Work Plans under which, among other things, the farmers are being given assistance for taking up cultivation of horticulture crops including floriculture. This Scheme is being implemented in all States and UTs in the country. Total assistance provided to States/UTs under the Macro Management scheme was Rs.63122.10 lakhs, Rs.58600.76 lakhs and Rs.62664.56 lakhs in FY 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, respectively. The allocation (Central share) under the Scheme during the FY 2004-05 is Rs.69500.00 lakhs.